

# From Pastor's desk...

May 2023

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

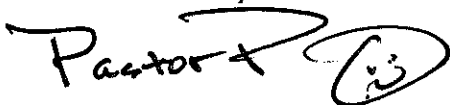
What do the Elders of the congregation do? They assist the Pastor during the Divine Services, especially when Holy Communion is celebrated. They also assist the Pastor regarding membership issues by making contacts, visits, and sending the occasional card or letter. They also assist the Pastor when problems arise concerning both the members and those who wish to become members. The Pastor keeps them informed in matters of concern.

The Elders also strive to help and encourage the Pastor as he seeks to preach, teach, administer the Sacraments, visit the sick, lift up the weak, commend the dead, and admonish the erring. They seek to care for the health and well-being of the Pastor as he goes about the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregation.

Our congregation has been blessed over the years with Pastors who have cared well for Zion's people by being faithful to their oath of service. They surely have not been perfect in all of their endeavors, for they are sinners seeking to help and encourage fellow sinners by preaching and teaching both Law and Gospel, sometimes succeeding and other times not so much.

Yet, God has placed them into the role of under-shepherd by their Divine Call, fully knowing that each one has different gifts and different abilities. The Elders want both Pastor and people to prosper in their faith!

Blessed May!

Pastor 



# Preparing the Sanctuary for Easter Services



# Easter Breakfast 2023





## Psalm 52

Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, "See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!" But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the Godly. (ESV)

## The Answer of the God who Suffers

Thursday of Lent 4  
23 March 2023

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Suffering is one of the great question marks hanging over the world. When some great tragedy comes upon a seeming innocent we say accusingly, "Where was God? If there really is a supremely good God he would not permit such things to happen." And thus, either God's supremacy or His goodness are questioned. We say this of the occasional brutality that breaks through the fragile patina of civility covering the seething desires of humanity, such as when one teen kills another merely to see how it feels.

But what would we say if there were once again a systematic persecution of the Christian religion in which Christians were routinely rounded up and subjected to brutal torture and summary executions, as is now happening in the Middle East? What kind of God permits His faithful followers to be so abused and for the sake of His faith which they confess? Strangely, the question of God's supreme goodness never passed the lips of the early Christians who themselves suffered such indignities at the hands of hostile Roman authorities. As they were ripped apart by wild animals they still confessed their faith in a supremely good God and prayed for their persecutors.

They knew their God as the one who Himself accepted suffering in His own crucifixion and death. They knew their God as the one who made martyrdom glorious by shaping their death like Christ's. They knew their God as the one who rescued them from the dominion of darkness, through the most powerful instrument of darkness: death. They knew their God as the one who took the world's evil into Himself that its evil might not vanquish those who suffer. They knew the God whose verdict upon the wages of sin was death, but that their mortal life, forfeit in this age and under its ruler, would be returned to them immortal in the age to come. The God who suffers answers *tout court* the question of suffering hanging over the world.

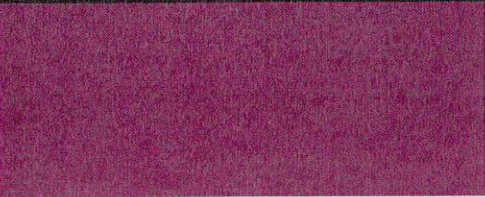
Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray  
Memorial Lutheran Church

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## Augustine of Hippo

"Although the death of the flesh itself also came originally from the sin of the first man, yet the good use of it has made most glorious martyrs. Not only death itself, but all the evils of this world, and the griefs and labors of men, although they come from the results of sins, and especially of original sin, whence life itself too became bound by the bond of death, have rightly remained, even when sin is forgiven, that man might contend for truth, and the goodness of the faithful might be exercised. Then the new man through the new testament might be made ready among the evils of this world for a new world, by bearing wisely the misery which this condemned life deserved, and by rejoicing soberly because it will be finished, but expecting faithfully and patiently the blessedness which the future life, being set free, will have for ever. For the devil being cast forth from his dominion, and from the hearts of the faithful, in the condemnation and faithlessness of whom he, although himself also condemned, yet reigned over, is only so far permitted to be an adversary according to the condition of this mortality, as God knows to be expedient for them. Concerning which the sacred writings speak through the mouth of the apostle: 'God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.' (1Co 10:13).

"The evils which the faithful endure piously, are of profit either for the correction of sins, or for the exercising and proving of righteousness, or to manifest the misery of this life, that the life where will be that true and perpetual blessedness may be desired more ardently, and sought out more earnestly. But it is on their account that these evils are still kept in being, of whom the apostle says: 'For we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified' (Rm 8:28-30). It is of these who are predestinated, that not one shall perish with the devil; not one shall remain even to death under the power of the devil. And then follows what I have already cited above: 'What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son



but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?' (Rm 8:31-32)."

**Augustine, *On the Trinity*, 13.16**

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**Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, You suffered under the burden of our sins and died in our place, that the wages of sin might not separate us from You, who gives us an indestructible life. Amen.

For persecuted Christians all over the world, but especially in the Middle East, that they would then confess the mercy of God in the midst of suffering

For Clare and Michael Staub, who were blessed with the birth of a baby boy, Jonathan, that they would rejoice in this gift of God

For all unborn children, that God would keep them safe in His place of nurture until He brings them forth from the womb

For President Matthew Harrison and the District Presidents of the LCMS, that the Lord Jesus would continue to grant them the strength to carry out the duties of their offices

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Art: **Gruenewald, *Mattias Isenheim Altarpiece*** (1515)

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# Celebrations

## Birthdays

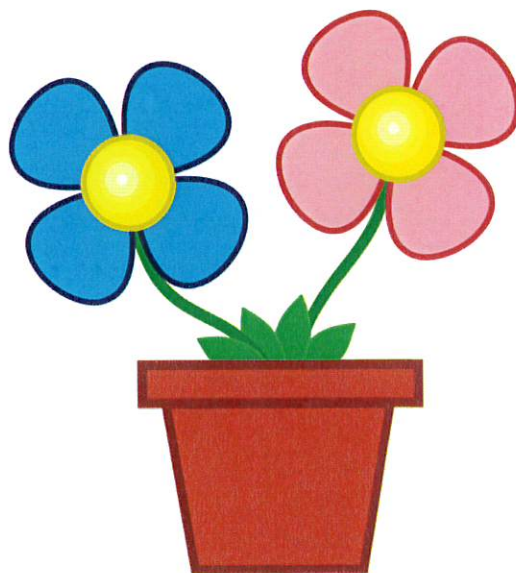
Lincoln Edwards	5/5
Anna Thompson	5/5
Ember Wieland	5/5
Rich Albsmeyer	5/11
Grace Bowen	5/11
Joyce TeRonde	5/18
Nash Van Veldhuizen	5/18
Ali Van Veldhuizen	5/23
Shannon Sparling	5/24
Mason Curry	5/25
Stacy Stremsterfer	5/27
Brooklyn Wieland	5/27
Carol Kiel	5/29

## Baptism Birthday's

Skylor Carter	5/10
Katrina Reiterman	5/10
Barb Hand	5/11
Nora Savage	5/12
Tristen Tewes	5/12
Lloyd Fraase	5/16
Landon Durheim	5/17
Sierra Shea Brandt	5/21
Ember Wieland	5/27
Jeanette Ealey	5/28
Nash Van Veldhuizen	5/28
Abby Bruce	5/31
Anna Bruce	5/31

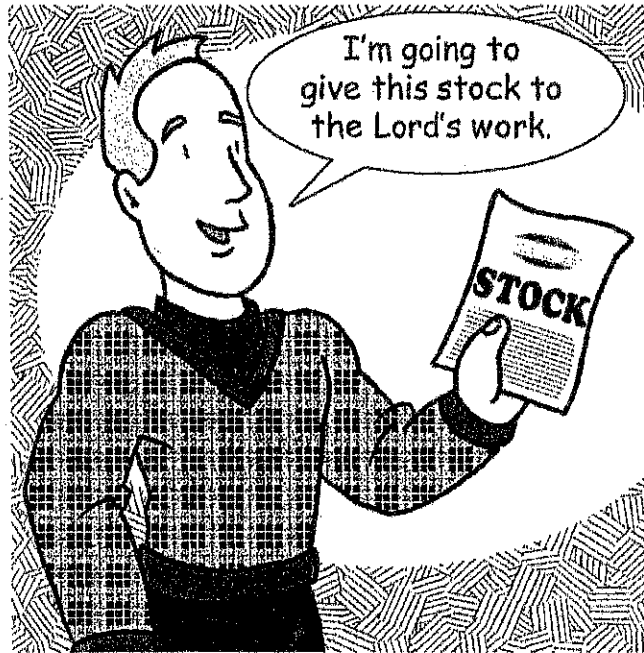
## Wedding Anniversaries

Rev. Don & Cindy Pritchard	5/3
Lloyd & Joyce Fraase	5/19
David & Jenny Darnell	5/29



## The Blessing of Wealth

Is it sinful to be wealthy? Are you suspicious of someone who has a lot of money? Do you consider wealth to be a sign of God's favor? If so, does that mean that those who don't have much money are not in God's good graces? What does the Bible say about this? Let's look at two Biblical characters, one on each end of the financial spectrum.



First is Abraham. When Abraham left Ur to go to Canaan, he took his nephew Lot with him. We read in Genesis 13 that the flocks and herds of each man grew so great that they had to separate. Although God had given the whole land to Abraham, Abraham gave Lot first choice. Lot chose the best

land, but still Abraham's animals multiplied. Abraham, out of his wealth, gave the best portion away, and God continued to bless him.

Many years later, Jesus is in the temple where He observes the worshipers putting money into the temple treasury. He saw rich men dropping their coins in and then "*a poor widow put in two very small copper coins*" (Luke 21:1-4). She was the one He blessed with His words of commendation, for she gave all she had.

What these two had in common was their willingness to share what they had with others. God supplied their needs and gave them even more so they could give to others. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:11, "*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*" Yes, wealth is a blessing that God gives, and, as His stewards, we rejoice in the opportunities He gives us to share that blessing as He directs.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS 2023

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

## JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. \$350/\*\$175

- Full Week: **June 5-9**
- Half Week: **June 5-7\* or 7-9\***

## BOLD SPIRITS

4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. \$350

- Session: **June 18-23**

## DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. \$350

- Session I: **June 11-16**
- Session II: **June 25-30**

## GENERATIONS

Campers age 4 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. \$65 per person

- Session I: **June 16-17**
- Session II: **June 30-July 1**
- Session III: **July 28-29**

## AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. \$350

- Session: **July 9-14**

## NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! \$350

- Session: **June 25-30**

## PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. \$150/\*\$175

- Session I: **May 31-June 2**
- Session II: **July 5-7**
- Session III: **July 31-August 3\***

## ART, DRAMA & ATHLETICS

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track-**Art, Drama or Athletics**-for the week & are led by experienced instructors. \$350

- Session: **July 16-21**

## INTREPID HEARTS

High-School students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation in a laid-back week before school starts. \$350

- Session: **July 23-28**

## WE NEED YOU!

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts volunteer absolutely free!

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - **June 4-9**
- J.C. Training - **May 30**

## REGISTER TODAY!

Find in-depth details on each camp & register\* at:

[WWW.CILCA.ORG](http://WWW.CILCA.ORG)

\*\$75 deposit due at time of registration  
Registration is according to the grade most recently completed.



*Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.*

Find out more at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)



## The Camp CILCA Lowdown

May, 2023

217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625



### SAVE THE DATES:

- **May 28 – Hog Roast**
  - Adults \$10, Children \$8.
  - 11:30am-2:30pm
  - Pulled Pork, sides, drinks, & desserts!
  
- **May 27-29 – Great CID Campout!**
  - **Outdoor recreation:** hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, disc golf, squishy ball, campfire devotions, Sunday worship for campers (10:30am) and Christian fellowship.
  - **Beach:** open daily from 1pm-4pm
  - Campsites, cabins, and hotel-style rooms in the Christian Growth Center are available. *Contact the camp office (217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)) for reservations.*
  
- **Anytime: Register for Summer Camp!**
  - **Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> grade:** Generations
  - **1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Pathfinders
  - **4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Bold Spirits, Aqua Week
  - **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Art, Drama & Athletics; Night Owl; Dauntless Souls
  - **High School:** Intrepid Hearts, Junior Counselor, Joyful Hearts Volunteer

Find out more at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<---- Pastor at	Spring Pastor's	Conference -->			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.			Mary Martha Guild 2:00 P.M.	Senior Breakfast Prep 6:00 P.M.	Senior Breakfast 7:30 A.M.	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Mother's Day	Evangelism & Outreach Committee 6:30 P.M.					Shirley Brandt Hagen Celebration of Life - Clayville Noon - 3:00 P.M.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.				Church Council 6:30 P.M.		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.						
4	5	<b>Notes: Elder Bob TeRonde</b>				

*Zion's Newsletter*  
*May, 2023*

*Zion Lutheran Church*  
*Rev. Don Pritchard*  
*525 North Cartwright*  
*P.O. Box 167*  
*Pleasant Plains, IL 62677*

*(217) 626-1282*



*Sunday School 9:00 A.M.*  
*Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M.*  
*Divine Service 10:15 A.M.*

*LCMS*

*Email: [zionpp@casscomm.com](mailto:zionpp@casscomm.com)*  
*Website: [www.zionpp.net](http://www.zionpp.net)*